for the year 1994 and the wrong caption on the cover photograph of the said report;

(b) if so, whether Government have sought any clarifications from the said Human Rights Agency; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to counter such false and misleading propaganda abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) Amnesty International published a report 'India: Deaths in custody in 1993' in June, 1994 which documented 36 cases of alleged custodial deaths in India except the State of Jammu & Kashmir in 1993. About Jammu & Kashmir it stated that reports of deaths in that State would be described and listed separately. Subsequently, Amnesty forwarded two lists of custodial deaths in Jammu & Kashmir together comprising 706 allegons vide their letter dated 15-12-94. Amensty's 52 page report entitled "TORTURE AND DEATHS IN CUSTODY IN J & K", of which the two lists mentioned above were to become appendices, was received in the Ministry on 25-1-95. As in the past, the report contained exaggerated and sweeping allegations of human rights abuses. In respect of J&K, it was also found that a large number of militants killed in encounter with security forces had been reported as custodial deaths. Detailed response to the general allegaitons contained in both the reports alongwith factual reports in respect of 28 out of 36 specific cases documented in June, 94 report and 579 out of 706 cases documented in December '94 report were sent to Amnesty through the High Commission of India, London on 27-01-95 and 14-02-95. The fact that Amnesty has continued to turn a Nelson's eye to the root cause of human rights abuses in the State of J&K viz. terrorism aided and abetted by external forces with territorial ambitions has once again been brought out forcefully in our response. Government's concern against the methodology adopted by Amnesty International and want of objectivity in its documentations has also been raised.

Amnesty International, in their campaign Journal (November/December '94 issue) for British Section has published the picture of a non-Kashmiri woman under the caption of "Kashmir: Where India has turned Heaven into Hell: first pictures from besieged Srinagar". The Government conveyed objections to Amnesty International in the strongest possible term through diplomatic channel and asked them to explain the position. In a letter dated 15-12-94, the Amnesty International informed that the investigation carried out by an independent media expert has confirmed that the photo feature carried out in its Journal of November/December '94 contained serious errors. Subsequently, Amnesty International also published an apology in its British Journal, January/February '95 issue alongwith the correction stating that the photograph was actually of a Tamil woman praying and not of 'Kashmiri woman in mourning".

Inquiry into the road accident leading to death of Giani Zail Singh

481. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any inquiry into the circumstances under which the late President of India, Giani Zail Singh was fatally injured in a road accident on November 29, 1994, if so what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether the former President after the accident remained lying on the road for half-an-hour without any medical assistance, if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether there have been any lapses in the security arrangements made for his protection; if so, what are the details thereof and also what are the details of the security arrangements made; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint an inquiry commission to probe into the whole matter, if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Government of Punjab instituted an Inquiry which was conducted by Principal Secretary (Deptt. of Home Affairs and Justice). Government of Punjab into the incident of 29th November, 1994 in which Giani Zail Singh was injured in a road accident. As per the report, Giani Zail Singh left Punjab Raj Bhavan at about 11.25 A.M. on 29-11-1994 for Anandpur Sahib in the bullet-proof car provided to him. On the return journey for Ropar/Chandigarh, after travelling about 5-6 Kms. from Kiratpur towards Ropar, the pilot gypsy in the carcade of the VIP which was 50-60 yards ahead from the VIP vehicle had signalled to the driver of the truck (PBI 1275) which was coming from the opposite direction to give way for the VIP car. The driver of the truck vacated the metalled portion of the road and got on the kucha portion which was 6 inches below the level of the road. It appears that the driver of the truck applied brakes and skidded but lost control over the vehicle as a result of which the truck swerved and hit the right front side of the VIP's bullet-proof-car, which caved in towards the steering wheel. All the four occupants of the car namely Giani Zail Singh, his nephew Basant Singh, driver Devinder Singh and SI Dharamvir Singh of Delhi Police, PSO of Giani Zail Singh were injured in the accident. They were immediately taken to the Civil Hospital Ropar and thereafter to PGI Chandigarh. The Deputy Commissioner and SSP Ropar accompanied the injured to PGI Chandigarh where all of them were admitted for further treatment. Inquiry Officer has concluded that it was a sudden accident.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Interrogation of the truck driver and investigations about the owner of the truck have not revealed anything incriminating which would point a finger towards possibility of sabotage by terrorists.

Freedom fighters pension to the participants in Naval strike in 1946

482. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether freedom fighters pension has been granted to all the persons who had participated in the Naval Strike in 1946 and lost their jobs as a result thereof

(b) if so, the number of persons from Punjab who have applied for this pension, with documents about the loss of jobs, duly supported, by service certificate based on the relevant records:

(c) the reasons for which these freedom fighters have not been granted pension so far;

(d) the details of representations received by Government in this regard recently, and

(e) the steps taken by Government to grant freedom fighters pension to these persons without any further delay?